'ed Nations A/72/820

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 April 2018

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 77 (a)
Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 27 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the trilateral declaration annexed to the joint letter dated 13 February 2018 (A/72/760), I would like to bring to your attention, upon instructions from my Government, the following considerations.

The outer limits of Turkey's continental shelf in the eastern Mediterranean that are west of longitude 32°16'18"E were defined in the Turkish notes verbales No. 2004/Turkuno DT/4739, dated 2 March 2004, and No. 2013/14136816/22273, dated 12 March 2013, as well as in several letters addressed to the Secretary-General which are published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and in the relevant issues of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

In light of the above, the reference to so-called "common maritime boundaries" in the annex to the above-mentioned joint letter is void and unfounded under the terms of international law, including both customary and case law.

I would like to reiterate that Turkey is committed to protecting its ipso facto and ab initio sovereign rights over its continental shelf emanating from international law.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 77 (a), and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as in the next *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

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